

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 IO-10 CCO-00 CIAE-00

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----- 116321

R 181525Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO, UK

SUBJECT: MARITIME SATELLITES.

REF: LONDON 2894

1. DEPARTMENT IS OF COURSE INTERESTED IN EVOLVING  
BRITISH AND EUROPEAN VIEWS TOWARD INMARSAT AND THE  
LONDON CONFERENCE, AND WITH SOME RESERVATION IS  
RECEPTIVE TO MELLON SUGGESTION IN RECENT LONDON  
CONVERSATION WITH CARL GRIP THAT UK OFFICIAL (POSSIBLY  
AUTHORIZED TO REFLECT VIEWS OF OTHER EUROPEANS ALSO)  
VISIT WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE.

2. IF UK AND/OR EUROPEANS HAVE FLEXIBLE POSITIONS ON  
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VARIETY OF MATTERS RAISED DURING U.S. TEAM VISIT IT

MIGHT BE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR UK REPRESENTATIVE TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON EITHER ALONE OR WITH ONE OR TWO OTHER EUROPEANS IF THEY CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH TO ENCOUNTER EUROPEAN GROUP WITH CONSOLIDATED EUROPEAN POSITION WORKED OUT IN SCHEDULED MEETING DESCRIBED PARA 1(A) REFTEL. IF U.S. IS GOING TO BE FACED WITH RIGID CONSOLIDATED POSITION FROM CEPT OR OTHER EUROPEAN FORUM THEN FROM U.S. VIEWPOINT WE SEE LITTLE GAIN IN FACING IT IN EARLY APRIL RATHER THAN AT LONDON LATER IN THE MONTH.

3. WHAT DEPARTMENT WOULD HOPE CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS IS CONSENSUS AS TO HOW LONDON CONFERENCE CAN BE ORGANIZED AND HANDLED TO ACCOMPLISH REALISTIC OBJECTIVE WHICH WE SEE AS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO INMARSAT ESTABLISHMENT AND SETTING UP INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEES TO WORK ON SPECIFICALLY-DESIGNATED TASKS PREPARATORY TO SECOND CONFERENCE. THIS IS A SEQUENCE GENERALLY ALONG LINES OF MELLON'S THINKING DESCRIBED PARA 1(C) REFTEL WITH EXCEPTION THAT U.S. SEES SECOND CONFERENCE DATE IN 12-18 MONTHS RATHER THAN SEVEN SUGGESTED BY MELLON.

4. UK INTEREST IN SOVIET VIEWS IS UNDERSTANDABLE BUT DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS SOUNDNESS OF MELLON ARGUMENT THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR UK TO DEVELOP OWN POSITION WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE SOVIET VIEWS. DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN COMPREHENSIVE RUNDOWN ON U.S.-SOVIET TALKS TO BRITISH EMBASSY HERE AND ALSO HAS REPORTED THEM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY LONDON. SOVIETS FEEL SOME SPECIAL PARENTAL INTEREST IN INMARSAT AND ARGUE FOR ITS EARLIEST ESTABLISHMENT. IN TALKS WITH U.S. THEY ACKNOWLEDGE ON ONE HAND SOME VALIDITY OF U.S. ARGUMENT THAT ONE MUST BE REALISTIC ABOUT LONDON'S EXPECTATIONS BUT ALMOST IN SAME BREATH ARGUE THAT FOR APRIL CONFERENCE TO ONLY PASS RESOLUTION ON INMARSAT ESTABLISHMENT AND SET UP COMMITTEES PREPARATORY TO SECOND CONFERENCE IS DISAPPOINTING AND UNSATISFACTORY. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE ACCURATELY HOW MUCH STEMS FROM CONVICTION AND HOW MUCH MAY BE TACTICAL JOCKEYING, THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY STILL BELIEVE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF SOVIETS AND AMERICANS CAN RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES, THEN OTHER NATIONS WILL FALL IN LINE AND LONDON CONFERENCE WILL BE A SUCCESS. DESPITE CLEAR PHILOSOPHICAL AND LEGAL GULF BETWEEN OUR VIEWS AS REFLECTED IN RECENT TWO-DAY TALKS, SOVIET DELEGATION LEADER AT END OF WASHINGTON STAY WAS SUGGESTING U.S.-SOVIET MEETING DAY OR TWO BEFORE CONFERENCE OPENING TO WORK OUT DIFFERENCES. SUGGESTION THAT SOLUTION IS ONE FOR

U.S.-USSR LAST-MINUTE BILATERAL REPAIR HAS ALMOST  
ALICE-IN-WONDERLAND QUALITY.

5. MELLON'S WARNINGS ABOUT DELICACY OF U.S. RAISING  
SUBJECT OF ECONOMIC UPDATING PROBABLY WERE INDICATIVE MORE  
OF UK PREOCCUPATIONS THAN THAT OF OTHER EUROPEANS  
(MEYER OF PTT WAS VERY CRITICAL OF IDEA IN RECENT  
TALKS WITH U.S. TEAM). IN PAST FEW DAYS, DEPARTMENT  
POUCHED AMEMBASSY LONDON TEXT OF SOME NEW YORK TIMES  
ARTICLES ON SERIOUS REDUCTION IN TANKER CONSTRUCTION  
AS WELL AS IDLE SUPERTANKERS ANCHORED IN NORWEGIAN  
FIORDS AND ELSEWHERE. THIS REDUCED ACTIVITY CAUSED

NOT BY MID-EAST POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES BUT WORLDWIDE  
RECESSION AND INDUSTRIAL SLOWDOWN. WITH UNCERTAINTY  
REGARDING WORLD ECONOMIC HEALTH OVER NEXT SEVERAL  
YEARS AND IMPACT IT MAY HAVE ON RATE OF SHIP OUTFITTING  
WITH SATELLITE TERMINALS, REVIEW OF POE ECONOMIC  
ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING SPACE SEGMENT COSTING MINIMUM OF  
DOLS 300 MILLION SEEMS ONLY PRUDENT AND RESPONSIBLE  
ACTION. THEREFORE SUGGEST EMBASSY TELL FCO THAT US  
WILL HANDLE SUBJECT PRUDENTLY BUT MUST URGE THAT  
ECONOMICS BE GIVEN HARD LOOK AT LONDON AND DURING  
INTERSESSIONAL WORK. WE HOPE BRITISH COMMON SENSE  
WILL PREVAIL AND THEY WILL SUPPORT US IN THIS.

6. REGARDING MAROTS/MARISAT U.S. AGREES WITH MELLON  
AND OTHER EUROPEANS THAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN AT LONDON  
SO THAT APPEARANCE IS NOT GIVEN OF EITHER UK OR U.S.  
PUSH. DEPARTMENT VIEW IS THAT MAROTS/MARISAT COOPERATIVE  
EFFORT AND EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING THAT INMARSAT SHOULD  
LOOK AT CAREFULLY, BUT IT IS MATTER FOR INMARSAT  
ORGANIZATION OR INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP  
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TO STUDY.

7. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS ABOVE VIEWS WITH  
MELLON AND TO INDICATE DEPARTMENT WILLINGNESS TO MEET  
WITH HIM OR OTHER UK REPRESENTATIVE OR SMALL  
REPEAT SMALL EUROPEAN GROUP IN EARLY APRIL BUT  
ONLY WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WILL BE INFORMAL  
EXCHANGE CONSISTENT WITH CONCERNS OUTLINED IN  
PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE. INTERESTED DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS  
WILL BE OCCUPIED MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1 OUTSIDE  
WASHINGTON, SO DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS ACCEPTABLE DATES  
OF APRIL 3 AND/OR 4. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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